

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 24, 2000

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 10, 2000

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 6, 2000

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 13, 2000

SENATE BILL

No. 1512

Introduced by Senator Hayden

February 16, 2000

An act relating to resources.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1512, as amended, Hayden. Los Angeles parks, open space, and river resources.

(1) Existing law provides for the University of California, which is governed by a Board of Regents, and the California State Library, a division of the State Department of Education.

This bill would request the University of California and the California State Library, in Partnership with the Department of Parks and Recreation, to conduct a conference on the history and condition of parks, open space, recreation areas, and bikeways in, and identify the present and future needs of open space, park, and recreational assets in, the Los Angeles area. The bill would require the department to solicit private contributions to fund the conference.

(2) The Budget Act of 2000 appropriates \$5,000,000 to the department for the acquisition and development of the Taylor Yard Project.

This bill would ~~require impose various requirements on the department to coordinate the implementation of the project with respect to this project.~~

(3) The Budget Act of 2000 also appropriates funds from the River Protection Subaccount for, among other things, programs related to the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers.

This bill would require the Resources Agency and the department, in assessing the needs and priorities for renewal of the Los Angeles River and San Gabriel River Watersheds, to seek the input of community-based and environmental organizations through the establishment of advisory committees.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of
2 the following:

3 (a) The voters of California passed the Safe
4 Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and
5 Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000 (the
6 Villaraigosa-Keeley Act; Chapter 1.692 (commencing
7 with Section 5096.300) of Division 5 of the Public
8 Resources Code) (Proposition 12) and the Safe Drinking
9 Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection, and Flood
10 Protection Act (the Costa-Machado Water Act of 2000;
11 Division 26 (commencing with Section 79000) of the
12 Water Code) (Proposition 13) in March 2000. These bond
13 acts provide hundreds of millions of dollars in funding for
14 the expansion and revitalization of parks, open space,
15 watersheds, and habitat for the Los Angeles region.

16 (b) The proceeds of bonds sold pursuant to these acts
17 to be used for parks include provisions to ensure that
18 resources will be invested in inner cities that lack number
19 of parks equivalent to other cities in California of
20 comparable size; in Los Angeles, for example, there are
21 fewer parks per thousand residents than any other major
22 city in America.



(c) The renaissance of parks, open space, and river parkways in Los Angeles includes the new Baldwin Hills conservancy on the former site of an oil field, a new river parkway on the site of the former Taylor Railroad Yards, completion of mountain trails, numerous acquisitions of open space and habitat for river parkways, and outlays for restoring the health of watersheds, wetlands, and the Santa Monica Bay.

(d) The State of California has a continuing interest in the protection and enhancement of the Los Angeles environment. The tourist economy in southern California is dependent on clean air, clean water, wetlands, open space, urban parks, bikeways, river parkways, a healthy marine environment, and clean coastal waters accessible and affordable to all. Serious air and ocean pollution problems in the Los Angeles region subjects the state to potential costs for noncompliance with federal laws. High levels of toxic exposures affect public health costs, and the lack of park and open space adds to frustrations in inner city communities.

(e) The State of California has an interest in the development of a sustainable ecosystem and environment in Los Angeles County, the most urbanized metropolitan area in the state.

(f) The State of California has an interest in assuring environmental justice by creating greater access to open space, parks, and recreation opportunities, and in environmental habitat revitalization for historically underrepresented communities, including those with high levels of poverty and socioeconomic disadvantage.

(g) The State of California already commits significant resources to the improvement of the Los Angeles environment, and of parks and open space, through funding of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountain Conservancy, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project, and projects of the Coastal Conservancy and the Department of Parks and Recreation.

SEC. 2. (a) The Legislature requests the University of California, the California State Library, and the

1 Department of Parks and Recreation, to conduct a
2 conference on the history and condition of parks, open
3 space, recreation areas, and bikeways in the Los Angeles
4 area. If the conference is conducted, it shall commence
5 by considering the 1930 Master Plan on Parks,
6 Playgrounds, and Beaches for the Los Angeles Region by
7 Olmsted and Bartholomew.

8 (b) If conducted, the conference shall identify the
9 present and future needs for the restoration, expansion,
10 and enhancement of open space, park, and recreational
11 assets in Los Angeles, including the need for fair,
12 equitable, and affordable access for all citizens.

13 (c) The conference shall also consider the ecological
14 health and sustainability of the Los Angeles region for
15 future generations.

16 (d) The conference shall include an inventory of all
17 Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (“ESHAS”),
18 zones of biological significance, and archeological sites of
19 religious or cultural significance.

20 (e) The materials utilized for the conference shall be
21 based on existing information from academic,
22 governmental, or other sources.

23 (f) The University of California, the California State
24 Library, and the Department of Parks and Recreation are
25 encouraged to solicit private contributions to fund the
26 conference.

27 SEC. 3. ~~(a) The Department of Parks and Recreation~~
28 ~~shall develop an implementation program for the Taylor~~
29 ~~Yard Project, in coordination with local agencies,~~
30 ~~nonprofit organizations with expertise in river~~
31 ~~enhancement, and local community groups. The~~
32 ~~implementation program shall detail how the~~
33 ~~department intends to carry out the project so as to be~~
34 ~~consistent with the 1996 Los Angeles River Master Plan,~~
35 ~~and with shall coordinate the implementation of the~~
36 ~~Taylor Yard Project, including input from an advisory~~
37 ~~oversight committee appointed by the Director of Parks~~
38 ~~and Recreation. It is the intent of the Legislature that the~~
39 ~~taylor Yard Project achieve goals that include, but are not~~
40 ~~necessarily limited to, enhancing river and riparian~~

1 habitat renewal, recreation and sports, best floodwater
2 retention practices, and community development.

3 ~~(b) The Director of Parks and Recreation shall appoint~~
4 ~~a Taylor Yard oversight committee to advise the~~
5 ~~department on ways to achieve the vision of the project.~~
6 ~~The oversight committee shall include, but not~~
7 ~~necessarily be limited to, stakeholders, restoration~~
8 ~~experts, and advocacy groups.~~

9 ~~(c) The implementation program shall be submitted~~
10 ~~to the appropriate budget and policy committees of the~~
11 ~~Legislature for review and comment no later than~~
12 ~~September 1, 2002.~~

13 SEC. 4. In assessing the needs and priorities for
14 renewal of the Los Angeles River and San Gabriel River
15 watersheds, *it is the intent of the Legislature that* the
16 Resources Agency and the Department of Parks and
17 Recreation shall seek the input of community-based and
18 environmental organizations through the establishment
19 of advisory committees.

20 SEC. 5. The Department of Parks and Recreation
21 shall strive to achieve an equitable allocation of parks,
22 recreation, and open space resources among historically
23 underrepresented communities in the Los Angeles
24 region. The department shall further strive to assure that
25 fees for access to parks, recreational areas, and public
26 beaches are affordable to working families and the poor.